

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OES-06 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

FEAE-00 DODE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:GRBEYER:PM

APPROVED BY NEA/EGY:GRBEYER

ACDA:RROCHLIN (DRAFT)

OES/NET/RD:JDEVINE (SUBS)

ERDA:HTAYLOR (DRAFT)

----- 099260

R 030200Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG, US, GW

SUBJEC . QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT

REF: STATE 216590 (NOTAL)

1. ON RETURNING TO THE OFFICE OF EGY AFTER MEETING WITH MR. DUBS (REFTEL), SAHLMANN COMMENTED THAT HE WAS HESITANT TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION IF THE U.S. OR OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS WOULD REFUSE TO COOPERATE IN THE USE OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNE'S) IF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY RECOMMENDED THAT ONLY BY THE USE OF PNE'S COULD THE PROJECT BE VIABLE.

2. WE REPLIED THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO U.S. EXPERTS TO THE BOARD OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT, ONE OF WHOM
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IS AN EXPERT IN THE USE OF PNE'S, INDICATED THAT THE U.S.

DID NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE THE RESULTS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WERE CONCERNED THAT WE NOT GIVE AN INACCURATE SIGNAL TO EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN THIS MATTER. THE U.S. WOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT WHICH WOULD VIOLATE THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY (LTBT). AS SAHLMANN AWARE, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WAS INTERESTED IN THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT. THE U.S. WOULD NOT WANT TO BE

INVOLVED OR IMPLICATED IN ANY WAY THEREFORE IN THE CANCELLATION OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. INDEED, WITHIN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AS TO WHAT THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY WOULD BE.

3. SAHLMANN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION PERFECTLY. HE BELIEVED HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WOULD SHARE OUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. HE DID NOT INDICATE HOWEVER WHETHER HE WOULD RECOMMEND THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.

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